ENHANCEMENT: CONTROL WOODY VEGETATION IN 30 FT. (OR WIDER) HABITAT BUFFERS ON AT LEAST 50% OF A FIELD'S PERIMETER BY DISKING, BURNING, OR SPRAYING ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF OF THE BUFFER AREA EACH YEAR

DESCRIPTION

This practice involves increasing the amount and intensity of management needed to sustain patches or strips of naturally volunteering or planted native grasses and broad leaf plants such as broom sedge, partridge pea and poke weed (at least 30 ft. wide) on 50% (or more) of a field's perimeter. Each year management actions such as light disking, or delayed mowing occur in 1/3 to 1/2 of the habitat buffer in order to conserve habitat and control woody vegetation.

This level of wildlife habitat management is higher than required to meet NRCS minimum wildlife quality criteria.

The $35 per acre enhancement payment is based on the acres of habitat managed, not a whole field's acreage.

REQUIREMENTS

- Include these practice requirements in the conservation plan.

- Annually control woody plants in 1/3 to 1/2 of the habitat buffer area using one or more of the following methods after the birds' nesting season:
    o lightly disking to chop and stir residue (leaving about 50% ground cover remaining), or
    o prescribed burn, or
    o spot-apply an approved herbicide, or
    o postponing field edge mowing until harvest time
- Keep the tree and shrub canopy cover less than 10% of the buffer area.

- Protect the habitat buffers from disking, mowing, fire and other disturbances during the birds' nesting season: April 15- September 15. Never use buffers for turn rows, roads, or storage areas for crops or equipment.

- Do not plant wildlife food plots in buffers. Use annual crops only when and where necessary to prevent soil erosion after disking.

- Inspect for erosion after major storms, remove accumulated sediment and re-grade washouts, stabilize repaired area by planting a small grain cover crop.

Maintain records of the practice using the table on the back of this sheet.

RECORDKEEPING: In order to verify compliance with the requirements, use this form to document the implementation and maintenance of this enhancement.

Field(s) Containing Buffers	Cover Crop Planted	Cover Planting Date	Cover Manipulation Date	Date Checked